

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) A power planer comprising:
 - a base defining a reference surface;
 - a cutterhead that defines a cutting plane;
 - a carriage assembly housing the cutterhead;
 - a carriage elevation mechanism coupling the carriage assembly to the base to thereby permit a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane to be adjusted; and
 - a height setting device for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between a first stop and a second stop, the first stop defining a datum and being threadably coupled to one of the base and the carriage assembly to permit a distance between the datum and the reference surface to be selectively adjusted, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage assembly, the second stop including an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted about a pivot point, the adjustment portion being segregated into a plurality of sectors, each of the sectors having a sector surface that is configured to be selectively abutted against the first stop when the carriage assembly is lowered toward the base, each of the sector surfaces being spaced outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance being related to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions.

2. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein the second stop includes a pin and a bushing, the pin being removably received into the bushing.

3. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 2, wherein the pin is selectable from a group of differently sized pins.

4. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein contact between the first stop and the second stop prevents the distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being adjusted below a predetermined minimum distance.

5. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein each of the sector surfaces is arcuate in shape.

6. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 5, wherein each of the sector surfaces is defined by a predetermined radius.

7. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 5, wherein each of the sector surfaces extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the sectors.

8. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein each of the sector surfaces extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the sectors.

9. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the first stop that is configured to contact the sector surfaces is arcuate in shape.

10. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein the second stop further includes a detent for resisting relative rotation between the adjustment portion and the other one of the base and the carriage assembly.

11 through 13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The portable power planer of Claim 13, A portable power planer comprising:~~

a base defining a reference surface;

a carriage that is coupled to the base and movable relative to the base along an axis;

a cutting tool that is carried by the carriage, the cutting tool defining a cutting plane;

a setting device having a first stop and a second stop, the first stop being coupled to one of the base and the carriage, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage, the setting device being operable for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between the first and second stops when the carriage is moved toward the base;

wherein the first stop includes a threaded member and a jam nut, the threaded member being threadably coupled to the one of the base and the carriage, the jam nut being threadably engaged to the threaded member so as to fixedly but removably secure the threaded member to the one of the base and the carriage, wherein the first stop further comprises a pin for contacting the second stop and wherein the pin is selectable from a group of differently sized pins.

15. (currently amended) ~~The portable power planer of Claim 11, A portable power planer comprising:~~

a base defining a reference surface;

a carriage that is coupled to the base and movable relative to the base along an axis;

a cutting tool that is carried by the carriage, the cutting tool defining a cutting plane;

a setting device having a first stop and a second stop, the first stop being coupled to one of the base and the carriage, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage, the setting device being operable for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between the first and second stops when the carriage is moved toward the base;

wherein the first stop includes a threaded member and a jam nut, the threaded member being threadably coupled to the one of the base and the carriage, the jam nut being threadably engaged to the threaded member so as to fixedly but removably secure the threaded member to the one of the base and the carriage, wherein the first stop further comprises a pin for contacting the second stop, the pin being selectable from a group of differently sized pins; and

wherein the second stop includes an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted to the other one of the base and the carriage about a pivot point.

16. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 15, wherein the adjustment portion includes a plurality of predetermined contact points, each of the contact points being spaced outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance corresponding to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions.

17. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 16, wherein each of the contact points is arcuate in shape.

18. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 17, wherein each of the contact points is defined by a predetermined radius.

19. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 17, wherein each of the contact points extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the contact points.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) ~~The portable power planer of Claim 20, A portable power planer comprising:~~

a base defining a reference surface;

a carriage that is coupled to the base and movable relative to the base along an axis;

a cutting tool that is carried by the carriage, the cutting tool defining a cutting plane;

a setting device having a first stop and a second stop, the first stop being coupled to one of the base and the carriage, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the

base and the carriage, the setting device being operable for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between the first and second stops when the carriage is moved toward the base;

wherein the second stop includes an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted to the other one of the base and the carriage about a pivot point; and

wherein the adjustment portion includes a plurality of predetermined contact points, each of the contact points being spaced outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance corresponding to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions.

22. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 21, wherein each of the contact points is arcuate in shape.

23. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 22, wherein each of the contact points is defined by a predetermined radius.

24. (original) The portable power planer of Claim 22, wherein each of the contact points extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the contact points.

25. (currently amended) ~~The portable power planer of Claim 20, A portable power planer comprising:~~

a base defining a reference surface;

a carriage that is coupled to the base and movable relative to the base along an axis;

a cutting tool that is carried by the carriage, the cutting tool defining a cutting plane;

a setting device having a first stop and a second stop, the first stop being coupled to one of the base and the carriage, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage, the setting device being operable for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between the first and second stops when the carriage is moved toward the base;

wherein the first stop is coupled to the base and the second stop is coupled to the carriage.

26. (currently amended) The portable power planer of ~~Claim 20~~ Claim 25, wherein the second stop further includes a detent for resisting relative rotation between the adjustment portion and the other one of the base and the carriage assembly.

27. (currently amended) A method for adjusting a dimension between a power planer blade and a power planer base, the power planer blade being rotatably supported by a carriage and defining a cutting plane, the power planer base defining a reference plane, the method comprising:

coupling a first stop to one of the power planer base and the carriage;

providing a second stop with an adjustment portion, the adjustment portion including a plurality of contact points;

rotatably coupling the adjustment portion to the other one of the power planer base and the carriage about a pivot point such that each of the contact points is spaced radially outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance;

rotating the adjustment portion about the pivot point to select a given one of the contact points; and

lowering the carriage toward the base so that the first stop contacts the given one of the contact points.

28. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein the first stop is coupled to the power planer base and the second stop is coupled to the carriage.

29. (new) The method of Claim 27, further comprising adjusting a location of one of the first and second stops relative to the reference plane to calibrate a height adjustment device that comprises the first and second stops.

30. (new) The method of Claim 29, wherein adjusting the location of the one of the first and second stops includes:

threadably releasing an element that is employed to maintain the one of the first and second stops in a stationary position relative to the reference plane;

positioning the one of the first and second stops to an adjusted location; and

threadably engaging the element to thereby maintain the one of the first and second stops in the adjusted location.

31. (new) The method of Claim 30, wherein the element is a jam nut.

32. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein prior to lowering the carriage toward the base the method further comprises removably coupling a spacer element to the first stop.

33. (new) The method of Claim 32, wherein the spacer element is threadably coupled to the first stop.

34. (new) A portable power planer comprising:
a base defining a reference surface;
a carriage that is coupled to the base and movable relative to the base along an axis;
a cutting tool that is carried by the carriage, the cutting tool defining a cutting plane;
a setting device having a first stop and a second stop, the first stop being coupled to one of the base and the carriage, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage, the second stop including an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted about an axis, the adjustment portion being segregated into a plurality of sectors, each of the sectors having a sector surface that is configured to be selectively abutted against the first stop when the carriage assembly is lowered toward the base, each of the sector surfaces being spaced outwardly from the axis by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance being related to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions, the setting device being operable for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of

predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between the first stop and a selected one of the sectors on the adjustment portion when the carriage is moved toward the base.

35. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 34, wherein the first stop includes a threaded member and a jam nut, the threaded member being threadably coupled to the one of the base and the carriage, the jam nut being threadably engaged to the threaded member so as to fixedly but removably secure the threaded member to the one of the base and the carriage.

36. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 34, wherein the first stop further comprises a pin for contacting the second stop.

37. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 36, wherein the pin is selectable from a group of differently sized pins.

38. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 34, wherein each of the contact points is arcuate in shape.

39. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 38, wherein each of the contact points is defined by a predetermined radius.

40. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 38, wherein each of the contact points extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the contact points.

41. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 34, wherein the first stop is coupled to the base and the second stop is coupled to the carriage.

42. (new) The portable power planer of Claim 34, wherein the second stop further includes a detent for resisting relative rotation between the adjustment portion and the other one of the base and the carriage assembly.